



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/047,352	01/14/2002	Renji Yang	0109015/024	4868
24573	7590	01/27/2005	EXAMINER	
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC PO BOX 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135			HAYES, ROBERT CLINTON	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1647	

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/047,352

Applicant(s)

YANG ET AL.

Examiner

Robert C. Hayes, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1647

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 23-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 28-30 and 36-38 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 23-27 and 31-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 23-38 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/14/02.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: 892 reference.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant's election of Group I (claims 6, 23-27 & 31-35) in the reply filed on 11/01/04 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claims 28-30 & 36-38 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 11/01/04.

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In particular, claim 6 is dependent on cancelled claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Art Unit: 1647

Claims 6, 23, 25-27, 31 & 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakafuka et al (IDS Ref #26).

Nakafuka et al teach *in vitro* stable cultures of rat/mammalian neural precursor cells with the same *mycer* construct as used in the instant application (i.e., c-myc cDNA construct fused to the ligand binding domain of an estrogen receptor; pg. 155 & 156; as it relates to claim 23; thereby, establishing the clonal cell line, MNS-57. These MNS-57 cells maintain a multipotential capacity to differentiate into neurons, astrocytes and oligodendrocytes (e.g., pgs.153, 154, 159-160 & especially 162 (2nd col.); as it relates to claims 26, 27 & 34-35). It is noted that the method of producing these cells using various mitogens, such as bFGF or EGF or β -E₂ (e.g., pgs 155-156 & 157-162) does not change the inherent properties of these claimed precursor/stem cell products (i.e., as it relates to claims 6 & 31); especially when neural stem cells are inherently and naturally derived from pluripotent embryonic stem cells (i.e., as it relates to claims 25 & 33).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any

Art Unit: 1647

evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 6, 23-27 & 31-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakafuka et al (IDS Ref #26), in view of Eilers et al (IDS Ref #20) and/or Evans et al (1988).

Nakafuka et al. is as described above. However, although Nakafuka et al. teach the importance of “understand[ing] the developmental processes of the [mammalian/human] CNS” (pg. 153), they do not specifically teach a stable culture of human neural precursor cells.

Eilers et al. teach both the c-myc construct used above by Nakafuka et al., as well as a similar c-myc construct, *mycgr*, contains the sequence that encodes the hormone [ligand] - binding domain of the rat glucocorticoid receptor fused to the 3' end of *myc* transforms these cells in a glucocorticoid-dependent manner (pg. 67, 1st *pp*; as it relates to other ligand binding domains in claims 23 & 31). However, although Eilers use a human myc construct, they do not specifically teach a stable culture of human neural progenitor cells.

Evans is a review describing the well known ligand binding domains of steroid/thyroid hormone receptors (e.g., pg. 891; as it relates to estrogen, androgen, progesterone, glucocorticoid, thyroid hormone, retinoid and ecdysone receptors and their respective ligands/myc-activating chemicals in claims 23 & 31). However, Evans does not teach stable cultures of human neural progenitor cells transfected with a c-myc construct.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to produce stable mammalian/human neural precursor cells, as taught by Nakafuka et al., using any well known steroid/thyroid hormone receptor ligand binding domain, as taught by Evans, fused to Eilers' c-

Art Unit: 1647

myc constructs, because Eilers et al teach that "similar chimaeras" transform cells in a steroid/thyroid hormone-dependent manner, and because of the potential human neural stem cells specifically possess in treating neurological disease states by replacing neural tissue that no longer exists, and by eliminating/minimizing host immuno-rejection of neural stem cells from non-human species.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Robert Hayes whose telephone number is (571) 272-0885. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, and alternate Fridays, from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brenda Brumback, can be reached on (571) 272-0961. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Robert C. Hayes, Ph.D.
January 19, 2005

ROBERT C. HAYES, PH.D.
PATENT EXAMINER